Building on the Rock

CAPTAIN TREVOR BROOKS

JESUS ENCOURAGES US TO BUILD LIFE ON FIRM FOUNDATIONS. HE TELLS US OF THE WISE MAN WHO BUILT HIS HOUSE ON SOLID ROCK.

From my little shack at Cullen Bullen, I can survey the surrounding countryside. I see smoke belching forth from the chimney at Portland Cement Works, as well as seeing and hearing the large lorries that cart coal from the mines nearby.

There is no doubt in my mind that this is an area of solid rock, both in lime and cement, in coal and mineral shale, which is of great abundance in the area.

Just as a miner digs deep below the surface of the earth to find the rich mineral he is looking for, I, too, as an evangelist, need to dig deep below the surface of people's lives before I can find a seam to penetrate with the love of God.

It is an area of great wealth but yet an area which still needs enthusiasm and spiritual drive.

What could be more appropriate than to quote from Ezekiel, chapter 36, verse 26:-

"I will give you a new heart and a new mind. I will take away your stubborn heart of stone and give you an obedient heart. I will put my Spirit in you and I will see to it that you follow my laws and keep all the commands I have given you .... you will be my people ...."

This is the God for all people everywhere. This also is the prayer I have within my own heart as I work amongst the people, especially Portland and Cullen Bullen.

In the new work here, with all its openings and avenues of pioneering the Gospel, is a real adventure in faith. At times I am not sure whether I am a miner staking out boundaries for the Lord or a missionary with the Sword of the Spirit ... Well, in this case both are synonymous in seeking souls for Christ.

MY DIGGINGS

First of all, ministry within the local Church - Lithgow, Portland and Cullen Bullen, where I have the opportunity of preaching and encouraging the worshippers in their own faith. There is the ministry to young people at school where we meet three days a week.

- Monday we have the 4 to 5 Club at Cullen Bullen after school.
- Wednesday afternoon Happy Hour for girls, then C.E.B.S. at night.
- Friday there is a newly-formed youth group for those of high school age. There are now about thirty young people attending.

The greatest problem for the youth here at Portland is boredom, with the lack of a sense of purpose and belonging. Unemployment, drugs and crime prevail amongst the youth of the area. Hospital visiting and general visiting in the local community also keep one hopping.

FAREWELL

We are sorry to tell you of the passing of Sister Irene Johnson on the 1st November. Several Officers and a large group of friends joined with members of her family at a Thanksgiving Holy Communion Service for her at St. Peter's Hamilton on the 5th November. Following are excerpts from the Address at the Service, delivered by the Federal Director, Captain G.A. Page.

"Today is a sad day, and a glad day.

"It is sad because we say farewell to Irene Barbara, a dear relative, friend and colleague. Glad, because we give thanks for the friendship, life and ministry of Irene ('Sister') Johnson over many years. We share in the sadness of her family in their loss, and assure them of our support in our prayers at this time.

"Irene entered the Church Army Training College at Adamstown from the Northern Rivers area of N.S.W.. She was commissioned as an Evangelist on the 2nd August, 1939. Her first appointment on Palm Island ... Queensland ... After nearly 14 years ... returned to Newcastle ... on the Training College Staff for 3 years as Matron. In 1956 ... north again ... to the remote Edward River Mission ..... In 1964 ... to Sydney ... on a team working in an inner-city area ... particular responsibility ... amongst Aboriginal people ... rescue work amongst women and girls ..... It was back once more to Newcastle in 1967 ... on the Staff of the Cathedral; visiting in 4 Newcastle hospitals ... helped train women as hospital visitors ... Secretary of the Newcastle Church Army Women's Auxiliary.

"Retirement began in December 1974, but in typical style Irene continued for 12 months to work part-time in the hospital work.

"Irene was a strong, practical person who was not afraid to speak out when she felt it was necessary. She was keen to serve her Lord and Saviour where she was needed, and this meant she pioneered many lonely tasks ... The last 3 times I met Irene she was in ... hospital ..., but I did not hear her complain about her pain or what she was going through.

"We thank God for Irene's life and her Christian faith which was the basis of her many years in active ministry.

"In writing to the Christians at Phil·ppi, St. Paul uses the phrase, 'With Christ, which is far better'. I believe this is true for Irene, and is a promise which brings comfort to us all ... Irene knew that a life lived in fellowship with Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour is a rich and wonderful experience. ... we can affirm with confidence that she is in the nearer presence of the One she served faithfully for so many years ....

"Today we pray for special comfort and strength to bless Irene's family and loved ones. We in the Church Army would wish to join with you in thanking God for her life of dedication, and her determination to serve the Lord Jesus through this Society."

Sister Johnson, centre, at a picnic on Palm Island, where she worked for so many years.

THE OPENING

Nearly 200 people gathered at Belrose on Sunday 21st October, when the Primate, the Most Reverend Sir Marcus Loane, opened and dedicated the BURGMANN MEMORIAL.

The Memorial incorporates the new Church Army Federal Office and the John Cowland Room.

It was a beautiful spring day, which provided the right atmosphere for new and old Church Army friends and Officers to mix informally in the buildings and outside, following the Service.

WHAT MADE IT POSSIBLE? During his address the Archbishop referred to the original Burgmann House - a Hostel in Newcastle for apprentices and students, made possible by the generosity, vision and drive of Mr. Clyde Burgmann (brother of Bishop Burgmann). When the Hostel had to close a couple of years ago, the Hostel Council decided that the sale money should be used by the Church Army, as a public memorial *"to the apprentices and students in the engineering and other metal trades who served in the armed forces and the mercantile marine in Australia during the Second World War"*.

Part of the money purchased the Church Army Bookshop (Perkins Street, Newcastle), opened in November, 1978, and the balance was put towards the new building in Belrose.

WHAT IS THE MEMORIAL FOR?

The Federal Office is the headquarters for all Church Army work in Australia, and the centre from which its varied evangelistic ministry is

Above: the Archbishop dedicates the Federal Office. Left, the Rev. Canon R.F. Gray, right, Captain G.A. Page.

Above: the Archbishop dedicates the John Cowland Room.

Above: the Lesson was read by former Federal Secretary, the Rev. A.W. Batley.

Left: the prayers were led by the Chairman of the Board, the Rev. Canon R.F. Gray.

FRIDAY

THE COLLEGE OF EVANGELISM:

The Principal, The Rev. G.L. MacRobb, Mrs. MacRobb, Michael & Katrina.
All Lecturers. *The Cook,* Mrs. S. Allen.
Candidates' committee and our need of suitable candidates.
Second Year Students: Jenny Thomson, Carol Tokley, Phillip Jackson.
First Year Students: Rae Kennedy, Jill Morrow, Peter Middleton (N.Z.), Glen Scott, Bob Stubbs, John Symons, David Woodyard.

* *

Please pray ...

for the following activities:-

CHURCH ARMY STAFF CONFERENCE 19 - 25 January, Stanwell Tops Christian Conference Centre, N.S.W.

SCHOOL OF EVANGELISM 11 - 13 February, at Griffith, N.S.W. for clergy in Diocese of Riverina *(The Rev. G.L. MacRobb)*

PARISH YOUTH CAMP 15 - 17 February, Parish of Greenwich, N.S.W. *(The Rev. G.L. MacRobb)*

VISIT TO TASMANIA 16 - 24 February, *(Captains G.A. Page, B. Mattinson, K. Cullen)*

MISSION WORKSHOP 22 - 24 February, Parish of Coffs Harbour, N.S.W. *(The Rev. G.L. MacRobb)*

PARISH MISSION March, Parish of Macksville, N.S.W. *(Captain K. Cullen)*

PARISH MISSION 23 - 30 March, Parish of Muswellbrook *(College assisting the Right Rev. A.C. Holland)*

PARISH MISSION April, Parish of Goodna, Qld. *(Captain K. Cullen)*

BEACH MISSION 4 - 7 April, Menindee Lakes, N.S.W. *(Captain B. Mattinson and team of students* *students)*

ON CHRISTMAS DAY

O Father, it is hard to realise that this wonderful morning is with us again!

Christmas is more than any of us can do - it is your miracle gift of incarnation; it is the means by which you tie heaven and earth; it is the widening of love, for Christ's sake.

Save us from excess this day, in giving and receiving, in providing and eating - because for so many of your children it is a time of need.

Let orphans and refugees, the bereft and lonely, the poor and dispossessed, glimpse something of your exceeding love and joy today - through the hospitality of our hearts and homes. Amen.

OUR STAFF CONFERENCE

will be held at Stanwell Tops, N.S.W.

January 19th - 25th, 1980

Chaplain & Study Leader: The Right Rev. J.B.R. Grindrod, Bishop of Rockhampton

Please pray for him and for all Officers and their families as they meet together.

Sister Lyn **Missioner**

Her youthful looks may suggest otherwise, but Sister Lyn Bullard has a very effective preaching and personal ministry amongst all age groups.

For quite some time, she has felt God's leading towards a ministry in conducting and assisting in parish evangelistic missions - special weekends or weeks in parishes for challenging people to commitment to Christ, and for building up the existing congregation.

In her own words .....

"As an Evangelist, my deepest desire is to see people come to Christ and surrender their lives to Him.

"After 3 years in the Parish of Forbes, God has spoken to me about moving in mission in a broader capacity. I am being directed to new places and new faces to challenge people to commitment to Christ, through preaching, small growth groups, children's and youth outreach and to encourage the layman to seek the ministry God has for him.

"I have discovered that you don't need a 'collar' to minister - but you do need a willing heart and a vision to see Christ's word spread further. Already, quite a few openings have come my way, to confirm that God has spoken very clearly to me in this mission."

From the beginning of next year, Lyn will be released by the Parish of Forbes for up to 12 weeks of the year, to take part in evangelistic missions.

ENQUIRERS AND CANDIDATES:

What an encouraging number of young people have been enquiring and applying to become trained as Church Army Evangelists!

According to present indications, we could have as many as 14 Students in College next year - the highest number for many years. And, as an organisation which seeks to serve anywhere in Australia, we are also encouraged by the number of Dioceses represented among them. They include Rockhampton, Canberra-Goulburn, Sydney, Grafton, Newcastle, Bathurst and Melbourne.

Some applications have already been received for 1981, too.

COULD GOD BE CALLING YOU TO BE AN EVANGELIST IN THE CHURCH ARMY?

For information, write to:-
The Candidates' Secretary, The Church Army in Australia,
P.O. Box 107, French's Forest, N.S.W., 2086.

THE CHURCH ARMY IN AUSTRALIA

P.O. BOX 107, FRENCH'S FOREST, N.S.W., 2086

PRESIDENT: The Most Reverend Sir Marcus Loane

PATRONS: The Archbishops and Bishops of Australia

EXECUTIVE BOARD: The Rev. Canon R.F. Gray (Chairman), Mr. C. Crittle, the Rev. Canon J.N. Falkingham, Mr. D. Coburn, the Rev. J.R. Henderson, the Rev. D.G. Livingstone, Mr. R. Manuell, Mr. K. Alexander, Mr. G. Seton, the Ven. N.J. Eley, Miss P. Byron, the Rev. B.J. Bevis, Mr. K. Llewellyn (Hon. Treasurer), the Right Rev. D.N. Shearman.

FEDERAL OFFICE & COLLEGE: Wyatt Avenue, Belrose, N.S.W. Tel. 451.8395

FEDERAL DIRECTOR: Captain G.A. Page, C.A.

EDITOR OF "THE PIONEER" & STAFF SISTER: Sister P.A. Free, C.A.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER & STAFF CAPTAIN: Captain B. Mattinson, C.A.

PRINCIPAL OF COLLEGE OF EVANGELISM: The Rev. G.L. MacRobb, Th.L., Dip.R.E., Dip. Min.

BOOKSHOPS: (14 Perkins St.) P.O. Box 784L, Newcastle, N.S.W., 2300. Tel. 23160.
95 Prince Street, Grafton, N.S.W., 2460

MANAGER OF BOOKSHOPS: Captain N.A.R. Payne, C.A.

THE WORLD WIDE CHURCH ARMY: The Church Army was founded in England in 1882, by Prebendary Wilson Carlile. It is a lay Society of men and women Evangelists of the Anglican Communion. Other autonomous Societies were founded in the U.S.A. in 1927, Canada 1928, Australia 1934, New Zealand 1935, Eastern Africa 1962, Jamaica 1969. Officers from some of these Societies are also at work in Germany, South America, South Africa, Botswana, West Pakistan and Italy.